

The "EMPEROR of the SAHARA" COMES TO LEARN FROM US



JACQUES LEBAUDY,

"Emperor of the Sahara," Who Is Traveling Incognito Through the United States.

JACQUES I.

EX-BOULEVARDIER, heir of a sugar magnate of Paris. Known as one of the most eccentric men in the world.

In 1903 established the "Empire of the Sahara" on the coast of Morocco.

Built his capital, Troya, out of sheet iron, including his palace.

Sued by five members of his crew, with whom he settled for \$10,000.

Aroused the governments of England, Spain and Portugal by his enterprise, but is making it a success.

Now traveling "incog." through the United States, to learn how to govern in a more democratic manner.

JACQUES I, Emperor of the Sahara," is touring the United States incognito.

His object, it is reported, is to learn all he can about the most successful form of democratic government.

This is said to be on account of the restlessness of his "subjects," who are not wholly satisfied with his regime of "the most liberal legislation, founded on this principle: Absolute liberty of people, respect of individual rights—American and English systems"—which he promised them at the outset of his Sandy Empire.

It is not at all unlikely that he may come to Washington in his quest for knowledge of how to rule.

According to a Paris newspaper, "Empereur Jacques le Premier" was seen in Boston recently. One of his agents says that just before departing for America the Saharan potentate collected five years' rents in advance on many of his Paris properties.

This Jacques Lebaudy, who has been intermittently amusing three continents since 1903, is known as one of the most eccentric men in the world.

He has founded a little "empire" of some 300 kilometres on the coast of Morocco, between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador, opposite the Canary islands.

His funny little capital, Troya,

all of sheet iron portable houses, is as quaint as anything that ever came out of a Paris toyshop. Even his palace is of sheet iron and can be moved from one place to another.

Success in the Desert.

A year ago, out of the desert came the tidings that Lebaudy's realm, founded in 1903, and which was loudly ridiculed at the beginning as the project of a madman, had really become a success from community and financial standpoints and that the city of Troya was to be reproduced in cement and stone.

Jacques Lebaudy may be considered as to his personality a cross between a daring adventurer and a peevish James Hazen Hyde. He is immensely wealthy, having inherited a large portion of the properties of his father, M. Jules Lebaudy, France's richest sugar magnate, who died from pneumonia, in 1889, leaving an estate worth \$50,000,000. He owned vast tracts of land in Seine et Oise, where his political influence was paramount and possessed the largest part of that fashionable portion of Paris, around the Church of St. Augustin, in the Boulevard Malesherbes. The value of the property has since increased manifold.

Jacques' three brothers went in with him to "see life" in all the fullness of the phrase's meaning. Max, known as "Le Petit Sirey," was a patron of the prize ring and turf, owned a fine racing string, got up private bull-fights where he appeared as a torador, clad in blue velvet jacket, red sash, and silver buttons. But in spite of his wealth, Max was forced to serve as a conscript. He contracted typhoid fever in the barracks and died in 1903. But Jacques loved adventure beyond anything in life. Tired of the boulevards and of dissipation, which some said at the time showed a decided effect upon him, he determined to roam about the world in a hunt for fame and pastimes to make his blasé pulses thrill.

Plans for His Empire.

It was in 1903 that Lebaudy conceived the idea of setting up an empire in the great sand waste of the Sahara. Possibly the exploits of "Chinese Gordon," accounts of whose doings he was always pouring over, influenced him in his undertaking. Jacques had even more enthusiasm than usually is the portion of the emotional Gaul. He drew about him a number of reckless men who had long fed on his bounty and they were ready to follow him, especially as he promised high office to many of his intimates.

Upon his cronies, Colonel Gourand,

Lebaudy conferred the title of "governor general of the Sahara." He was dispatched to the Sultan of Morocco, from whom he secured a loan of several million dollars.

When Lebaudy set out for the coast of Africa, June 19, 1903, his force was conveyed in three vessels, and consisted of many members of the Legion of Honor and soldiers of fortune. The armament was sixteen rapid-fire Hotchkiss guns. Lebaudy's private



yacht, *Frasquita*, carried the "emperor" and a small crew.

Before landing near Tarafan, which is within the Spanish "influence," M. Lebaudy read the following manifesto to his crew, while they quaffed champagne in honor of the glorious occasion:

"NOTES ON THE SAHARAN EMPIRE, POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.

"The Sahara has been explored for the first time and opened to civilization in the year 1903, by Jacques Lebaudy, who has taken the title of emperor under the name of Jacques I. This sovereignty is essentially territorial. It is based on this principle: that from land comes all sovereignty. It is the system of feudal right, still in use in European countries—for instance, in England, the rights of whose nobility have not changed since the Norman conquest. In consequence, this sovereignty is essentially different from the ideas prevailing in France since the Revolution, where all sovereignty comes from the people.

"The Emperor of the Sahara exercises an absolute power over all things, but over his people this absolute power is tempered by a most liberal legislation, founded on this principle: Absolute liberty of people, respect of individual rights—American and English systems."

Conquering the Moors.

With a show of bravado the little company landed on the shore and cowed the natives, who were a mixture

of Moor and negro, constantly at war among themselves.

Lebaudy then crossed by caravans several miles of desert until he came to where the city of Troya was founded. He built a wharf, a fortress, two jetties, and a lighthouse, and prepared to put up his sheet iron city. He intended to construct a railway from Fleg to Timbuctoo, but abandoned the project, owing to the unfriendliness of the French government.

The Paris press, and soon the press of all lands, began to poke jests at M. Lebaudy, but tenacity of purpose was one of his strong traits. Then it was that the English and Spanish press began to look upon the exalted little man as a bugaboo, and were very much disturbed over what they suspected was a scheme for France to acquire new territory. The French foreign office issued notice that the expedition was purely a private one, and had not been officially sanctioned. Then the Portuguese government tried to prevent the establishment of Lebaudy's "empire," even going so far as to start legal action.

Flight to Belgium.

All this notoriety was nuts to Lebaudy. Then five of his men, a portion of the crew of the yacht *Frasquita*, were seized by a caravan of

Moors and held for ransom. As Lebaudy refused to succor them, the Paris Journal fitted out an expedition to go to their rescue. Later, the men sought suit against Lebaudy. As the allies were hunting him up, "L'Empereur," who was in England at the time, fled to Belgium with his "court," included in which, by this time, were a large number of women.

The flight entailed Herculean exertions, on account of the impedimenta in Lebaudy's train, including dispatch boxes and even typewriters. Then Lebaudy quarreled with Colonel Gourand, who threatened to set up an independent Saharan empire.

Finally the law suit brought against Lebaudy by the crew of the *Frasquita* was settled out of court for \$30,000. With his characteristic vanity, Lebaudy insisted that the terms of settlement should include that the receipt for the money be made out to "His Majesty, the Emperor of the Sahara."

More Opera-Bouffe.

There was more opera-bouffe when Lebaudy had gold coins struck, bearing his effigy with "Jacques I" underneath, in bold relief and the date, 1904. On the reverse of the coins were a representation of the sirocco and the words "Empire Sahara."

"Jacques I" also had a flag made—a golden crescent and a star on a field of azure.

Such is the history of the movement which made Europe, America, and Africa laugh loud and long.

But M. Lebaudy always has been full of surprises. Perhaps he is really going to do something great, this time, as he is looking to a great model government for inspiration.

Swiss Mail Carriers Have a Leisurely Way

THERE is considerable difference between the manner in which mail is delivered in Switzerland and in this country. Rudolph Schellenberg, an Indianapolis letter carrier, has returned from a

visit to his old home in Switzerland, and tells entertainingly of the way the carriers in this country go about their work. Because of his connection with the postal service in the United States, he naturally was interested in the service in Switzerland, and in addition to making various inquiries, he took a number of photographs.

In speaking of the carriers at Zurich he said: "They are appointed in a manner different from the American carriers. For the only examination they have to take is physical—the same as is required of a soldier.

"After they have passed this examination they are eligible to a position as substitute on probation. While serving on probation they are paid about 50 cents a day. Whenever a vacancy occurs higher in the ranks, an announcement is made in the *Amtsblatt*, the organ of the government, and those on probation then apply for the position. The one who stands highest, by reason of his daily work, is then appointed to the position of collector from the street letter boxes, at a salary of about \$250 a year. They then, as opportunity offers, are eligible to appointment as porters, at a salary of about \$310 a year. The position is similar to that of transfer clerks, such as are at the Union station in this city. They are eligible to a clerkship in the central office, at a salary of \$350 a year, or as a parcel-post carrier. If they accept the clerical position, at \$350 a year, they are increased to \$450 at the end of twelve years, and are then eligible to a position as money-order clerk at a salary of \$500.

"The letter carriers, as such, are a bunch, but a box suspended by straps from their shoulders. The boxes have not as great a capacity as pouches, but the carriers can pile up the letters high on them, after bunching the letters by the use of rubber bands. The letter carriers get their letters at the central office and at substations, and they carry no parcels.

"All parcels are delivered by parcel-post carriers, who go about their duties with a pushcart. They obtain their parcels at the railway station, and sometimes they have a considerable journey to the beginning of their routes, but the streets are paved and the men seem as willing to be parcel-post carriers as letter carriers.

"There are special carriers for money orders, as the people are not expected to call at the office to have these orders cashed. The carrying of money orders, by the way, is a rather coveted position, because of the tips, which range between 50 cents and \$1.50 a week. When an order is cashed by a carrier it is the usual thing for the recipient of the money to shove back to the carrier the small change.

"All of the men wear light blue uniform in the winter, but in the summer they wear a white blouse, and any sort of trousers they prefer. The clothing is furnished them free by the government, and every three years they receive, free, an overcoat.

"The men work ten hours a day, but accomplish no more work than is accomplished by the carriers in this country in eight hours. They are rather an easy-going set, in regard to time, and there seems to be no penalty for going into a saloon and taking a drink with a friend while on duty, or for loitering in the corner in conversation."

TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR.

A lot of poor children were at Rockefeller's stock farm near Cleveland. He gave each of them some milk to drink, the product of a \$2,000 prize cow. "How do you like it?" he asked when they had finished. "Yes, it's fine," responded one little fellow, who added, after a thoughtful pause, "I wish our milk man kept a cow!"—Argonaut.

Theosophy in "Lomaland"

Practical Occultism at Point Loma, Cal., Where Mrs. Katherine Tingley Is Autocrat.

MRS. KATHERINE TINGLEY'S theosophical brotherhood community at Point Loma, Cal., is receiving much attention, just now, in the magazines and press of the country. Life in this community is entirely diverse from the models provided by the outside world. Children are educated somewhat after the manner of the Greek ideals. Family life disappears. The training of children even from infancy, and the prosecution of household duties, such especially as pertain to eating, are conducted on the co-operative plan. Everybody works, but each elects the work he likes best.

"The lawyer of the institution," says Hay Standish Baker in an article in the current issue of the *American Magazine*, "diversifies his legal work by superintending the vegetable garden." His wife cooks in the kitchen. The leader of the orchestra takes a turn at gate-tending; a writer for the *New Century* writes the organ of the brotherhood, may do a turn as a member of roads. All are students. Music and the drama, home-produced, are among the recreations. They have produced among other plays "The Eumenides" of Aeschylus in the open-air theater under conditions of climate and sky and with costumes which must have made the performance a close duplication of those of ancient Greece. "And it is not unimportant," continues Mr. Baker, "not uncharacteristic, to note that during the production of this play newspaper reporters hid on the hillside, watching from afar, and wrote fervid accounts of the mystic and occult rites and ceremonies of the people of Point Loma."

"The first and perhaps the strongest impression she gives is one of virility—life. A stout woman of medium height, without a gray hair in her head, and dark, restless, eager eyes. Her dress impressed even the unobservant eyes of a man by its elegance; her step was decided; her voice imperative. She is pre-eminently the power of the institution; a clear, strong, practical mind.

"I have spoken of Mrs. Tingley as a strong leader. She is more than that; she is a complete autocrat. She says herself: 'The government of the universal brotherhood is autocratic and



MRS. KATHERINE TINGLEY, Head of the Theosophical Brotherhood at Point Loma, Cal.

rests entirely in the hands of the leader, and officials are known to the privilege of nominating her successor."

"The dogmatic basis of the life at Point Loma does not demand of the brotherhood a hard-and-fast subscription," says the *Literary Digest*. "The universal brotherhood organization," says one of its pamphlets, "is for the purpose of carrying to men the message of theosophy and brotherhood. No assent to dogma is, however, required, only a full acceptance of the principle of brotherhood, and an honest attempt to realize it in life."

Mrs. Tingley is said to have changed members of families about to suit herself, giving the children of one husband and wife to another, and making other autocratic arrangements, and to have compelled the denizens of Point Loma to wear chesscloth drapery in summer, in imitation of Greek robes,

Tree of the Sad Night Known as a Regular "Devil"

THE tree of Tula and the tree of the Sad Night are known throughout the world, but there is a tree in Mexico which has acquired a local reputation somewhat shady in character.

El Arbol Maldito is said to have been planted by a gentleman who had the misfortune to be swallowed up by Mother Earth on account of his crimes. He was known throughout the country as an hombre muy malo. He never went to mass, never confessed his sins, nor did he have the image of a saint in his house, wear a rosary around his neck or make the sign of the cross as a respectable man should. He never gave a beggar even a centavito, and when he met a padrecito on the street he did not deign to remove his hat.

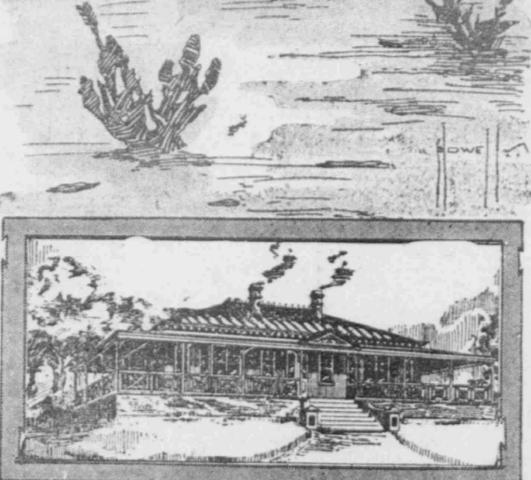
Now it was rumored, says Modern Mexico, that this gentleman was responsible for many murders and atrocious crimes of every description, but he was never confined to jail, because it was known that he had a compact

with the devil, so that whenever he invoked his majesty he was rendered invisible to the human eye, or, at least, so small that he could easily escape. He was shunned by all, and he had neither friends nor relatives.

But a peculiar thing about this man was that he loved the trees, the birds and all the animals. He planted a great many trees and fed a flock of birds every morning.

It was many years ago that the event of his departure took place, but it is still remembered by the ancient inhabitants of the neighborhood. Everybody on the Hacienda ranch had attended the religious services of the morning, and they were returning to their homes when a terrific noise was heard.

They rushed to the street where it came from, and there they saw how the earth had opened up under the feet of that hombre muy malo. He was enveloped by thick flames and smoke and quickly disappeared beneath the surface of the earth.



SHEET IRON PALACE,

Wherein "Jacques I" Holds Court in His Sandy Empire.